

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05370 231247Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
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P 230702Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 238

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5370

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ESCAP, OCON  
SUBJ: ESCAP-34TH SESSION

REF: STATE 039037

1. REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (ACPR) (POSITION PAPER FOR ITEM 9 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA).

2. PROBLEM: NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER THE ACPR REPORT DESCRIBING ITS WORK SINCE THE 33RD SESSION AS SET FORTH IN E/ESCAP/94 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACPR TERMS OF REFERENCE ESTABLISHED BY COMMISSION RESOLUTION 143 (XXX). THE FULL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACPR HAS YET TO BE ACHIEVED PARTLY THROUGH THE ABSENCE OF TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BY MOST REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND Owing TO THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PERFORM OTHER FUNCTIONS WITHIN THEIR MISSIONS WHICH OCCUPY MOST OF THEIR TIME. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A RELUCTANCE AMONG SOME REGIONAL COUNTIRES TO EXPAND THE WORK OF THE ACPR BEYOND ITS ADVISORY ROLE.

3. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ESCAP SECRETARIAT THROUGH CONTINUING CONSULTATION BETWEEN ANNUAL SESSIONS. THE ACPR HAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 05370 231247Z

DEMONSTRATED, IN IT SADVISORY CAPACITY, THE THE MECHANISM SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE AND THAT COOPERATION IN THIS FORUM HAS LED TO THE SATISFACTORY RESOULTION OF SEVERAL ISSUES. THIS INTERACTION HAS SERVED THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS WELL AND HAS FOCUSSSED THE SECRETARIAT'S ATTENTION ON ITEMS THEY HAD OVERLOOKED OR NEGLECTED. THERE HAS BEEN A WIDER REPRESENTATION AT ACPR MEETING SOVER THE PAST YEAR AND AN INCREASING

NUMBER OF AD HOC MEETINGS HAVE ENHANCED THE ROLE OF THE APCR IN PROVIDING AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE WHERE MEMBERS FELT MORE AT EASE AND FREER TO SPEAK CANDIDLY ON ISSUES BEFORE THE GROUP.

4. US POSITION: THE US SHOULD ENDORSE THE ACPR REPORT NOTING THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR. FURTHER PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE WORK PROGRAM FORMAT AND PRIORITIES; EVALUATING THE FEECTIVENESS OF PROJECTS AND MINIMIZING DUPLICATION WHITH OTHER UN BODIES. WE SHOULD AGREE TO ANY RE-COMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION TO ASSIGN SPECIFIC TASKS TO THE ACPR WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE ESCAP CONFERENCE STRUCTURE; STUDY OF MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEEINGS; COORDINATION OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES; REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO COMMISSION SESSIONS AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF ESCAP THROUGH BETTER PRESS COVERAGE OF ITS ACTIVITIES.

5. DISCUSSION: THE ACPR WAS CREATED AT THE 1974 COMMISSION MEETING IN COLOMBO AND WAS DESIGNED AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO ASSIST THE ASCAP. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY NINE SESSIONS A YEAR PLUS AN ALMOST EQUAL NUMBER OF INFORMAL AD HOC MEETINGS HELD TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ISSUES. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE ACPR BUT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF ITS DEBATES AND GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS.

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 05370 231247Z

UNCLASSIFIED

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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